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2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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July 9, 2004

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The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hunter:

Thank you for your invitation to view the full classified report prepared by Major General Antonio Taguba. Because of the sheer volume of the report and the thorough review that is needed to assess it, we believe it would be more practical for our offices to make arrangements to obtain a copy of the report from your staff. We assure you we will handle this document in the same manner as we handle other classified or sensitive materials received by our committees, including limiting access only to those individuals with appropriate clearances.

While the Taguba report is a useful starting point for our constitutionally mandated oversight activities, we hope you would agree that it is just that: a starting point. In fact, General Taguba himself stated "my task was limited to the allegations of detainee abuse involving M.P. personnel and the policies, procedures and command climate of the 800th M.P. Brigade."¹ It now appears that the circumstances and policies that led to the abuse in Abu Ghraib reach far beyond one brigade in one prison.

As a result, we very much look forward to working with you to obtain your support to obtain the myriad other documents that are relevant to conducting a full and fair investigation into this matter that have not yet been released by the White House, such as reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other human rights organizations, findings of investigations instigated since Maj. Gen. Taguba's report, and records documenting the role of

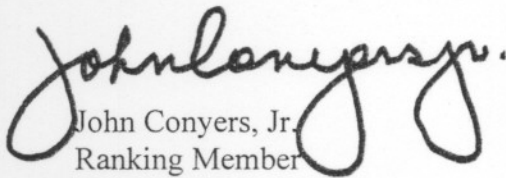
¹Full Committee Hearing to Receive Testimony on Allegations of Mistreatment of Iraqi Prisoners before the Senate Armed Services Committee, 108th Cong. (May 11, 2004) (testimony of Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba).

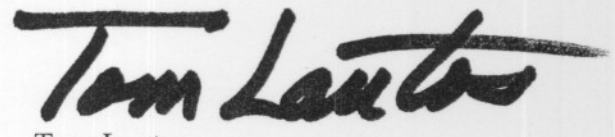
The Honorable Duncan Hunter
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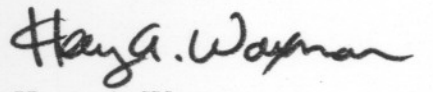
contractors in interrogation and detention and the practice of keeping detainees off the official rosters.

We would therefore invite you cosponsor H. Res. 689 and H. Res. 690 which we recently introduced and which would request all the pertinent documents and create a select committee to conduct a fair and thorough investigation. Beyond that we are more than happy to work with you to develop other means of receiving these materials so we can assure the American public and the international community that the prison abuse scandal is being fully reviewed and investigated.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Judiciary Committee


Tom Lantos
Ranking Member
International Relations Committee


Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member
Government Reform Committee